

Electoral Representation Review - Boroondara City Council - Preliminary Submission
Ray and Anne C Elliott - Hawthorn - 10 March 2019

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Strongly opposed to multi-representative wards || satisfaction with the present election arrangements
Date: Sunday, 10 March 2019 4:37:22 PM
Importance: High

Regarding: The Electoral Representation Review for Boroondara Council

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Dear Victorian Electoral Commissioner.

We have been mainly continuous residents in The City of Boroondara for over 43 years through two principle locations:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Moreover Ray Elliott has been ...

- Chair of [REDACTED] Camberwell (5 years) and appeared in VCAT representing that OC (58 owners) on a major development issue with a neighbouring developer application;
- A commercial tenant in Melbourne University Hawthorn Campus (5 years).

So we have had a broad and long association with this City over many years.

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During this period as residents we have had reason to consult with, and seek the support of, our local ward counsellors on a number of occasions.

We have been impressed by, and valued, their responsiveness and concern for our legitimate issues. On one occasion indeed for the issues of the whole Court (severe flooding).

Our experiences of the ten ward structure in this City have been satisfactory. We are opposed to any suggestion that this City have multi-member wards. This change is not warranted by population changes.

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Moreover a move towards multi-member ward representation:

1. would **add un-necessary complexity** with ratepayers having to consider contacting multiple representatives on their local ward issue of concern;
2. has the potential to politicize local government with **unequal representation across the City** given Ward residency requirements;
3. would **add complexity to communications between Counsellors and rate payers** and, we contend on the basis of Mr Elliott's considerable professional experience, **undermine effective accountability through the addition of multiple parties to any issue, thereby making lines of reporting and accountability confusing and ambiguous.**

So the net effect of charge towards multi-member ward representation in this City would be a **decrease in the personal responsibility** of Counsellors, **increased distraction** in their carrying out their duties, **additional workloads and personal stress** with greater role conflict management and role ambiguity (two major causes of stress in organisations). These two stressors (organizational research shows) result in poor productivity and a lack of personal well-being.

The election of accountable individuals is the best way to ensure responsibility and effectiveness, not hidden ambiguous internal Ward consultation processes which are more amenable to uncontrolled pressure group manipulation – especially in this NEW AGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

ACTIVISM.

Thank you for considering our sincerely but strongly held views on this matter.

Anne C Elliott, Teacher and Resident.

B.Mus, Dip.Ed.

Ray Elliott, FAHRI, MAPS, FCOP.

Regd Psychologist, AHPRA Endorsed Organisational & Supervising Psychologist

B.Sc., Dip.Ed., Grad.Dip.Arts, M.Ed. (Mon.), B.D.(MCD/UD), Grad.Dip.AppliedPsych (VU), STM(Yale).

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